

**Statement by Norway to the 63rd session of the Legal Subcommittee – agenda item 12,
General exchange of views on the legal aspects of space traffic management**

Chair,

The topic of space traffic management has never been more relevant, both for preserving the space environment and for safe operations, and it is a topic of global nature.

The activity in space and thus the dependence on space activities is increasing. This picture is also true for Norway. We expect the first orbital launches from Norway to take place this year. In addition, we expect a doubling in the number of satellites to be operated by Norwegian actors in the coming years. With increased activities comes increased responsibilities. We therefore believe that space traffic management is a crucial topic for the coming years.

Norway has, from the beginning of this year, established a civil responsibility for space surveillance and tracking and space traffic management at the Norwegian Space Agency. The arrangement will be evaluated after a 3-year period. The arrangement entails ensuring that national needs are met within space surveillance and tracking and space traffic management, as well as handling of warnings nationally, including in emergency response settings. With this new arrangement Norway will be better placed to coordinate events, both nationally and towards international partners. We are committed to contributing as a responsible space actor.

Chair,

Dialogue, coordination and collaboration are vital components when it comes to international space traffic management, which is why it is important that space traffic management remains an item on this subcommittee's agenda.

Norway finds the topic of space traffic management to be essential for protecting the future of the space environment and for continue to ensure the benefits of space-based assets to our own planet. Important work both with the Long-Term Sustainability guidelines and with technical standards provides a good foundation for discussions on the topic, but we also believe there is a need to discuss the legal framework for space traffic management in a multilateral setting, and thus we are interested to cooperate with other delegations in contemplating a way forward on this issue. In that regard, we support the suggestion made by the German delegation to give a mandate to a study group of experts to come up with a proposal on how to move forward on space traffic management.

Thank you Chair